

November 10, 1999

TO : Federal-State Small Group
FROM : Mary Selkirk
SUBJECT : Outcomes from meeting, November 9, 1999

This following is a summary of outcomes and actions from the November 9th meeting of the Federal-State Small Group.

1. Ecosystem Restoration Coordination

• ***NMFS Fish Screen Proposal***

Two issues embedded in this proposal:

1. Should some DOC project funds come out of non-ecosystem funds?
2. Are these the best fish screens for consideration?

Significant discussion ensued on these two issues. There was general agreement that some DOC funds could be moved into the non-ecosystem column.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the project selection process, and the need to find the appropriate balance between moving quickly and the integrity of the Restoration Coordination Program.

DFG expressed preliminary support for the NMFS fish screen proposal.

Outcome: General support for fish screen proposal. Wendy Halverson Martin agreed to further investigate maximizing cost shares on all of the screen proposals.

• ***Science and Monitoring***

Patrick Wright raised the question regarding how well the agencies the Roundtable, and BDAC understood and supported the detail on the proposed science and monitoring. Outcome: Wendy Halverson Martin will create a new document merging the narrative description of the proposed science and monitoring component of the program for FY 2000 and the funding for each specific project. She will fax this out to Small Group immediately.

The issue of integration of IEP and CMARP was raised and discussed. Perry Herrgesell noted that DFG is convening a meeting on this issue in early December.

Outcome: Follow up at Small Group on November 16th of all Restoration Coordination items on the Policy Group agenda. Wendy Halverson Martin will fax out any additional materials that will be presented to Policy Group on November 17th.

Outcome: Wendy Halverson Martin will brief Small Group on the FY 2001 project selection process and report on feedback from the Roundtable's November 9th meeting.

- ***Integration of programs and funding sources for Ecosystem Restoration***

Action: This item is scheduled for the Policy Group agenda on November 17th. Wendy Halverson Martin will review this item at the Small Group meeting on November 16th.

- ***South Delta Planning Budget***

Frank Wernette reported that the proposed amount of \$1 million for initial South Delta planning is the bare minimum required to initiate that program, that it would not be feasible to reduce it further. Steve Ritchie asked for exact number required through June 30, 2000.

Action: DFG will provide this number to CALFED.

Lead: Frank Wernette

- ***Chief Scientist Position***

There was discussion regarding the Chief Scientist position proposed by CALFED.

Larry Smith of USGS noted that CALFED could benefit from retaining an interim Chief Scientist, who may not necessarily be the same individual who would be hired permanently in that role. Perry Herrgesell noted that there has been further talk within his agency regarding ways to further integrate USFWS and DFG scientists.

Outcome: CALFED will convene a small group to review and if necessary re-write the Chief Scientist job description.

Lead: Steve Ritchie

2. Water Management Development Team

Ron Ott reported that by November 23 the WMDT would have Scenarios 1A and 1B through the end of Stage I.

There was discussion regarding how to respond to the ag-urban letter to Secretary Babbitt and Governor Davis that was critical of the WMDT process. Patrick Wright suggested quiet meetings with some members of the ag-urban caucus. Lester Snow commented that a written response was also necessary. He went on to say that the federal agencies needed to caucus on this soon because recent federal actions have created part of this problem. There was general agreement to immediately convene a meeting with ag-urban and to initiate a written response.

Action: WMDT members will take the lead in setting up a meeting and in generating a written response.

Lead: Steve Ritchie and Patrick Wright.

Steve Macaulay noted that a written response could not be completed in time of the Policy Group on November 17th. There was general acknowledgement of this.

- ***Environmental Water Account***

Alf Brandt presented a proposed EWA framework. Steve Ritchie noted that the framework must have water supply, drinking water quality and environmental water all have to be clearly indexed. Steve Hirsch noted that the actions need to be prioritized to have any utility in developing a plan.

Action: Small Group members to get feedback to Alf on the framework ASAP. Tom Hagler will help develop the framework into a plan.

3. Common Responses to EIS/R

Rick Breitenbach presented latest series of common responses being drafted for the revised EIS/R. He highlighted the question of whether to keep the proposal for a Hood diversion in the EIS/R or take it out.

Outcome: CALFED will convene a small group to decide what to do on this, will bring recommendation back to the Small Group. Resolution will be sought before the Small Group meeting on November 16th.

Lead: Rick Breitenbach

Contacts: Tom Hagler, Jim Lecky, Wayne White, and Perry Herrgesell

4. Response to Water User's Brochure

There was length discussion regarding how to respond to the recently published water user's brochure in which claims are made regarding the water supply impacts of various regulatory actions on CVP customers. Patrick Wright commented that CALFED needs to show the total statewide, or total Westside picture. Lowell Ploss responded that he Bureau can do a total Westside baseline, and can so a total statewide baseline. Patrick commented that the immediate need is the Westside total baseline.

Lester Snow stated that CALFED needs to produce a joint state-federal response. Second, he suggested altering the range of years to look at, Third, he proposed layering on Trinity and b(2). He noted that Secretary Babbitt wants to see the bigger resource picture.

Steve Macaulay noted that CALFED has got to be able to explain the differences with the water users' analysis.

Action: CALFED will produce a response, using an expanded time-frame of 1986-96, and including other water sources in addition to Delta exports. Date for completion to be set later today (November 9th).

Federal lead: Lowell Ploss

State lead: Kathy Kelly

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 16th

Agenda:

Follow-up: Ecosystem Restoration Coordination (November 17th agenda)

Follow-up: WMDT (November 17th agenda) and response to ag-urban letter

Follow-up: EWA Framework (November 17th agenda)

EIS/R Common Responses: Hood diversion

Follow-up: CALFED Report on Water Supply Impacts

Follow-up: 2000 Water Operations (November 17th agenda)